

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KABUL 06433 091457Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03 OPIC-06  
/028 W

-----013603 100510Z /11

R 090815Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9482  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS KABUL 6433

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EINV, BGEN, AF  
SUBJECT: INDAMER AFGHAN INDUSTRIES

REF: KABUL 5517 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE LATEST SITUATION OF INDAMER AFGHAN INDUSTRIES IS AS  
FOLLOWS. THE COMPANY HAS PAID APPROXIMATELY 400,000 AFGHANIS  
(\$10,000) TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE IN FINES FOR VIOLATIONS  
OF TRADING LICENSE REGULATIONS. THIS APPARENTLY SETTLES  
THE CLAIM OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE ON INDAMER.

2. THE MUCH LARGER PROBLEM FACING THE COMPANY IS THE  
TAX ASSESSMENT OF THEM MINISTRY OF FINANCE. THE COMPANY  
HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH A TAX BILL OF ABOUT 11 MILLION  
AFGHANIS (\$275,000) AND UNDERSTANDS THAT THE TOTAL TAX  
BILL FOR THE YEAR 1958 THROUGH 1972 WILL PROBABLY AMOUNT  
TO ABOUT 25 MILLION AFGHANIS (\$625,000). POLICE HAVE  
BEEN MAKING DAILY EFFORTS TO COLLECT THE TAX ASSESMEN  
AND THE COMPANY PRESIDENT, PAUL MATHEWS (AN  
INDIAN NATIONAL), WAS ARRESTED FOR THREE DAYS.  
MATHEWS HAS NOW BEEN RELEASED.

3. THE EMBASSY THROUGH DIPLOMATIC NOTES AND  
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DISCUSSIONS BY THE AMBASSADOR WITH THE MINISTERS  
OF COMMERCE AND FINANCE HAS REQUESTED THAT THE  
GOVERNMENT TREAT THE COMPANY FAIRLY AND RESOLVE THE  
TAX PROBLEMS IN AN EQUITABLE MANNER. WE HAVE  
SUGGESTED THAT AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE BE  
FORMED TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF INDAMER. THUS  
FAR, NO SUCH COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED.

4. INDAMER OFFICIALS ARE ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH THE TAX ASSESSMENT BY CONTACTS WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND TO DISPOSE OF THEIR ASSETS. SEVERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ACQUIRING INDAMER'S LAND, WORKSHOP, AND STOCK OF PARTS AND EQUIPMENT, BUT THE COMPANY HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY FIRM OFFERS AS YET.

5. THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE IS DEMANDING THAT THE TAX ASSESSMENTS BE SETTLED IMMEDIATELY, CITING THE ORDER BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE THAT INDAMER SHOULD SETTLE ALL ITS BUSINESS AFFAIRS IN 30 DAYS. (THE 30-DAY LIMIT HAS NOW PASSED.) THE EMBASSY IS FORWARDING A REQUEST OF INDAMER TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE REQUESTING THAT ADDITIONAL TIME BE ALLOWED TO THE COMPANY FOR THE DISPOSAL OF ITS ASSETS AND SETTLEMENT OF ITS TAX LIABILITIES.

6. INDAMER'S ATTORNEY, VINCE RAKESTRAW, VISITED KABUL RECENTLY AND DISCUSSED THE INDAMER PROBLEM WITH THE AMBASSADOR. RAKESTRAW, A FORMER AIDE TO WILLIAM SAXBE WHEN HE WAS AMBASSADOR TO INDIA, IS RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES AND WILL PROBABLY REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT WITH NOOR AHMAD NOOR, AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., AND JACK MIKLOS, DEPUTY  
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SOUTH ASIA, TO DISCUSS THE INDAMER PROBLEM. NEA/PAB MAY ANTICIPATE RAKESTRAW CONTACTING THEM FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THESE APPOINTMENTS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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